



## Report to Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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**Report of:** Executive Director of People Services Portfolio

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**Subject:** Elective Home Education

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The report includes a summary of the Elective Home Education service, a breakdown of the users of the service and the reasons why. This information is provided for Members of the Committee, for them to consider any further work they may wish to request.

**The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

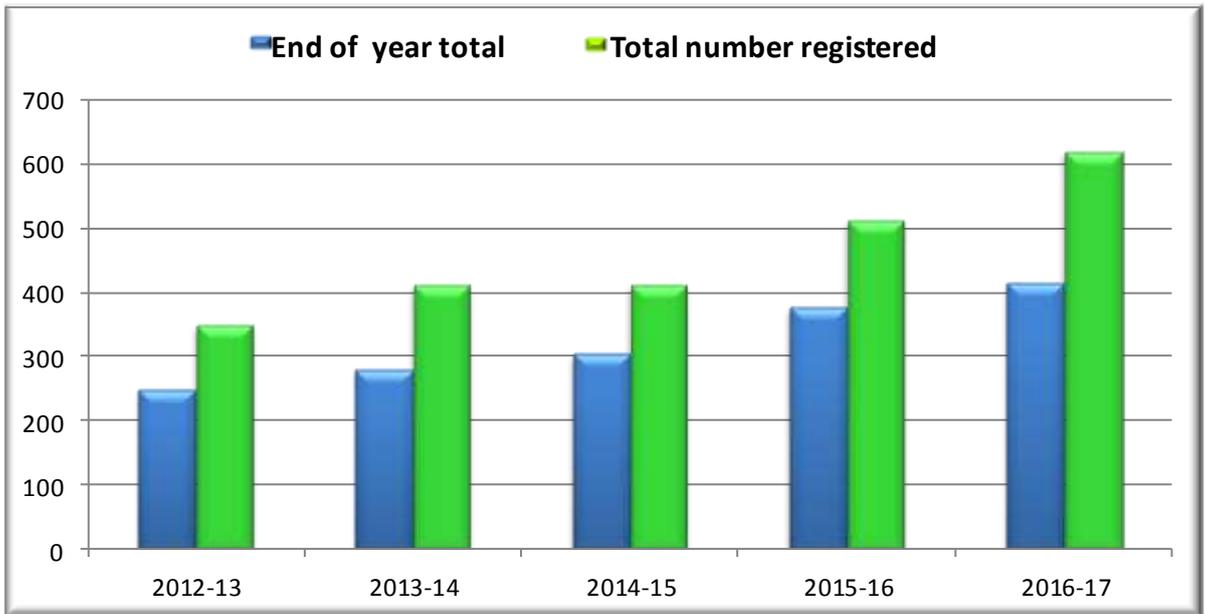
- Consider the contents of the work programme and provide any comment / feedback

## Elective Home Education

### Current cohort

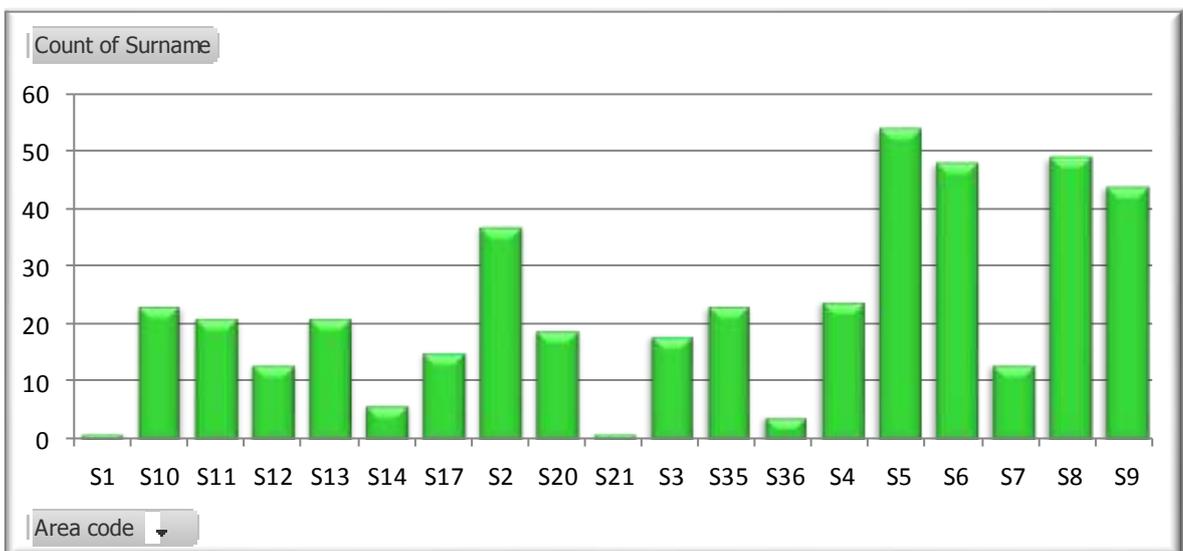
The number of children educated at home has been increasing annually both locally and nationally for the past 10 years. During 2016-17, 619 children were registered with the EHE service at some point in the year. This is an increase of 21% from 2015-16. Over the past 5 years the total number of children registered with the elective home education (EHE) service has increased by 77%. There are currently 438 children registered as home educated.

**Figure 1: End of year totals**



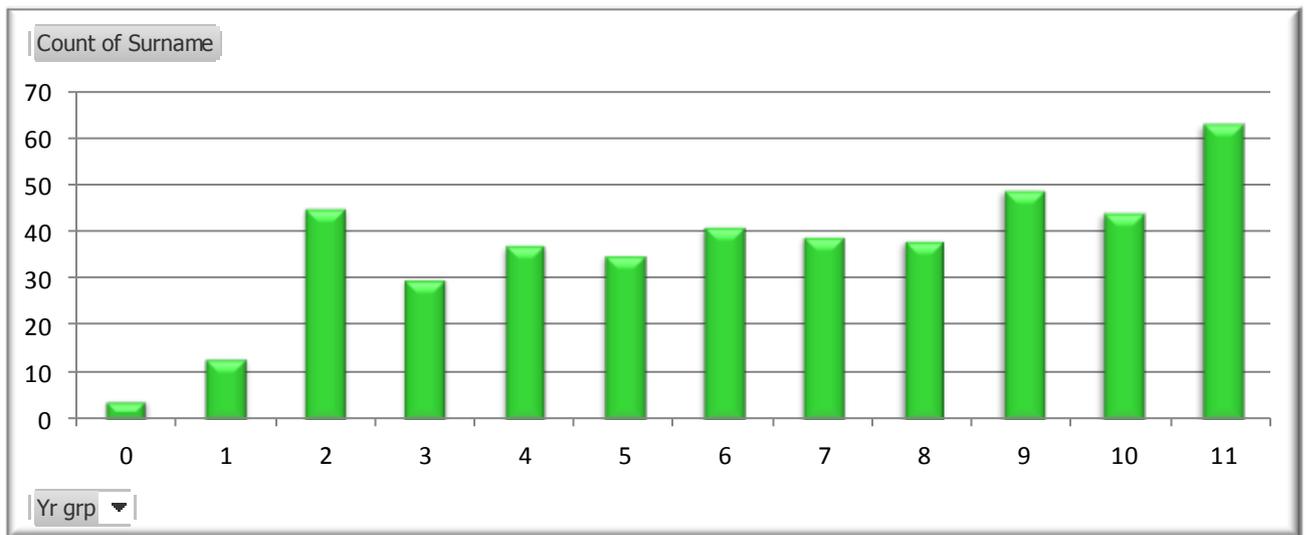
The majority of children educated at home are white British (53%) and there are slightly more males (52%) than females (48%). EHE children are distributed throughout the city, with a higher incidence in the S5 area.

**Figure 2: EHE students' area code**



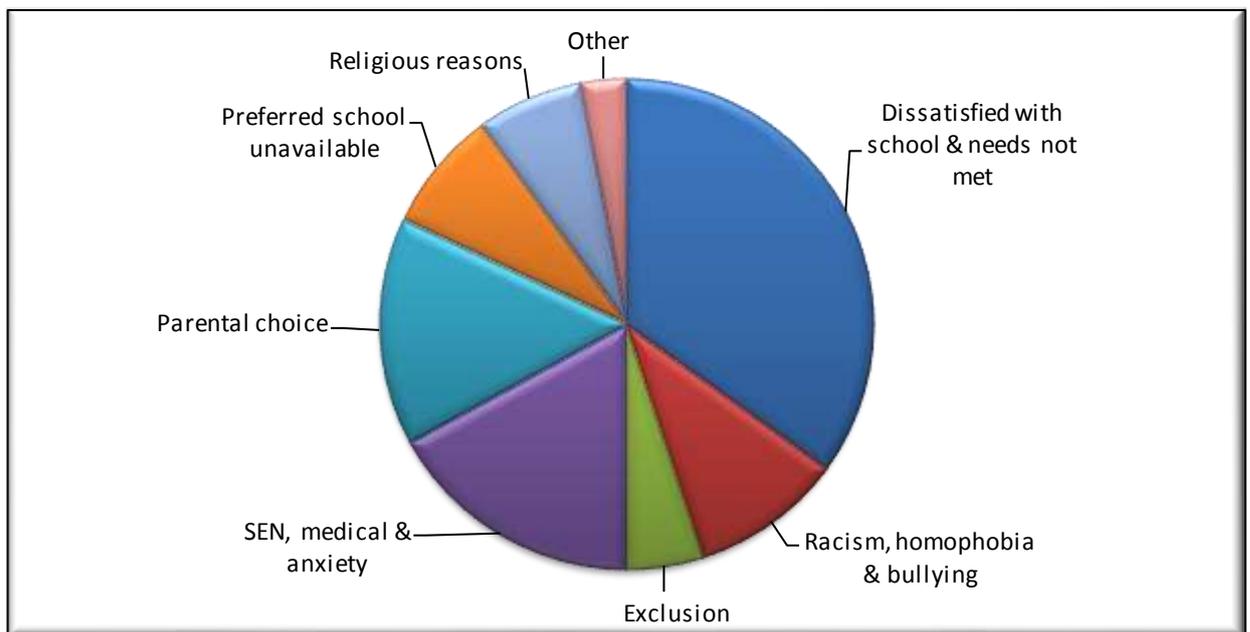
The majority of home educated students are secondary age. The largest category of students are Y11. This trend of increased numbers in key stage 4 is in line with other local authorities.

**Figure 3: EHE students' year groups**



The main reason for home education is dissatisfaction with school and needs not being met. Following this, special education needs was the other reason most cited by parents.

**Figure 4: Reasons for EHE**



The number of children educated at home with an Education Health Care Plan/statement or previously receiving SEN support is 27.3%. This is higher than the 14.4% national average for children attending school. Over 30% of the current cohort is classed as vulnerable.

**Monitoring arrangements**

The Home Education Advisor is responsible for ensuring parents are fulfilling their statutory duty to provide a suitable and efficient education. Due to current statutory restrictions there is no

formal framework for the ongoing monitoring of children educated at home, however a system of parental support has been developed. All parents have access to the Home Education Advisor who carries out home visits to assist with the creation and development of educational plans and signposting. A programme of drop in sessions has been established which is accessible to any parent educating at home or considering home education whether known or unknown to the local authority. Sheffield has a large home educating community and it is estimated that some families are not registered with the local authority.

During the last academic year, just over 50% of children were receiving a suitable education. An agreement is in place with schools to re-admit pupils not receiving an education at home. Additional support is offered to those families that do not want to return to their exit school. If the home provision continues to be unsuitable, families are referred to the Children Missing Education team who will assist with a return to school. When all other steps are exhausted, families are referred to the Multi Agency Support Team (MAST) for a School Attendance Order.

The main focus of the EHE service is divided between supporting in circumstances where the provision is inappropriate and/or a return to school is necessary, and a programme of ongoing, tailored support for children and young people being satisfactorily educated at home.